

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 ACDA-10 INR-05 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7662
INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0652

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, TH, US
SUBJ: FMS CREDITS FOR THAILAND

REF: (A) STATE 305804; (B) BANGKOK 28819; (C) STATE 289084

1. DURING INFORMAL LUNCHEON JAN 5, CHARGE AND JUSMAG CHIEF DISCUSSED ARMS TRANSFER POLICY AND THAI PROGRAM WITH ADMIRAL JINAWAT WONGPENSRI AND CAPT WIRUN KONGCHAN OF THE THAI COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SUPREME COMMAND COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY ADM JINAWAT WHO IS ALSO ASST COS, SUPREME COMMAND, FOR LOGISTICS, RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND).
2. CHARGE NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD APPROVED AND SENT TO CONGRESS ALLOCATION OF DOLS 8 MILLION GRANT MAP AND ONE MILLION DOLLARS IMET FOR THAILAND FOR FY 78. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY WIRUN, CHARGE EXPLAINED AGAIN THAT FY 78 WOULD BE THE LAST YEAR OF GRANT MAP FOR THAILAND. HE EXPLAINED THIS IN CONTEXT OF WORLDWIDE TREND TOWARD ELIMINATION OF GRANT SECURITY ASSISTANCE EXCEPT IN
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A FEW COUNTRIES, USUALLY WHERE U.S. HAD BASE AGREEMENTS. BOTH JINAWAT AND WIRUN WERE WELL AWARE THAT FY 78 WAS TO BE LAST YEAR OF GRANT MAP AND THE QUESTION WAS RAISED MORE FOR FINAL CONFIRMATION THAN OUT OF ANY REAL EXPECTATION THAT THERE WOULD BE GRANT MAP AVAILABLE BEYOND FY 78.

3. ADM JINAWAT AGAIN RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED FMS

CREDITS IN VIEW OF TERMINATION OF GRANT MAP, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION SPECIFIC LEVELS. CHARGE, DRAWING ON REF A, POINTED OUT THAT ENCOURAGING RESTRAINT IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS WAS UNDERLYING OBJECTIVE TO U.S. ARMS TRANSFER POLICY AND THAT IT WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC TO THINK IN TERMS OF TRYING TO MAINTAIN ROUGHLY PRESENT FMS CREDIT LEVELS FOR THAILAND THAN TO EXPECT MAJOR INCREASES. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MISSION AND RTG OFFICIALS CONTINUE INFORMAL DIALOGUE ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE MATTERS RATHER THAN DEALING WITH FORMAL (THAI) REQUESTS FOR INCREASED FMS LEVELS WHICH MIGHT BE UNREALISTIC. JINAWAT AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE A SENSIBLE APPROACH.

4. CHARGE INFORMED JINAWAT OF IMPENDING VISIT TO THAILAND OF AID ADMINISTRATOR GOV. GILLIGAN. HE LINKED LIKELY PUBLIC ATTENTION THEN ON CONTINUATION OF OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO POINTS REF A RE CONTINUATION OF BUDGETARY RESTRAINT ON MILITARY PROCUREMENT WHICH RTG AND SUPREME COMMAND HAVE FOLLOWED IN PAST. JINAWAT AGREED BUT NOTED RTG DOES HAVE SIGNIFICANT SECURITY PROBLEMS AND NEEDS A BALANCED APPROACH, ALSO PAYING ATTENTION TO DEFENSE NEEDS.
O'DONOHUE

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